Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Demonstrations in La Paz, Potosi and Sucre

U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia July 15, 2015

U.S Embassy La Paz advises U. S. citizens living and traveling in Bolivia of ongoing antigovernment demonstrations in La Paz and the areas of Potosi and Sucre, in southern Bolivia. There have been multiple road closures disrupting transportation in and around the affected cities. Shortages of food and water have also been reported.

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bolivia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the U.S. embassy.

You can stay in touch and receive Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found here. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, by calling the regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Bolivia</u>. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Thursday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) or 591-2-216-8500 after hours and on weekends.

The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting our <u>website</u>.

The Embassy operates one Consular Agency in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

If you wish to visit the Consular Agency for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through our <u>website</u>.